



HILLCREST RECYCLING SITE

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Recycling

Site

Attica, NY -

EPA Region

II

POLREP #2

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Hillcrest Recycling Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject:

POLREP #2
Hillcrest Recycling Site
02ME
Attica, NY
Latitude: 42.8605560 Longitude: -78.2736560

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From: Eric Daly, On-Scene Coordinator, Mike Hoppe, On-Scene Coordinator, Dwayne Har
On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 9/14/2012

Reporting Period: September 12, 2012 to September 14, 2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background



Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead:	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 9/12/2012	Start Date: 9/12/2012
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification: 09/11/2012
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Air release of hazardous substances from an industrial facility.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Hillcrest Industries facility collects boiler slag material (hardened residue collected from off-site co boilers) and processes it into sandblasting abrasive materials. The facility also processes glass fragments (cullet) into reflective road striping beads. Reportedly since May 2012, a fire has been smoldering in a pile of predominantly recycled plastic waste which covers an area of approximately one acre and is 40 feet high.

The facility receives mixed recycled glass, plastic, and paper waste and separates the glass portion for grinding into abrasives and reflective additives for road marking paint. Glass is separated from mechanical plastic, metal, and paper waste for further grinding into a fine particulate; residual plastics waste with metal is reportedly then sold to scrap dealers for additional reclamation of the metal content.

The Site encompasses Approximately 10 acres and has been in operation since 2000.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Hillcrest Industries facility (Site) is located on 40 Favor Street in Attica, NY. The area is rural/residential with residences present immediately adjacent to the Site. A high school is located approximately 2000 feet from the Site.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

A stockpile of predominantly recycled plastic waste, covering an area of one acre and 40 feet high, has been burning (smoldering) since May 2012.

In July, 2012, NYSDEC collected five dust samples from four residential properties and eleven samples from the Site at specific release points and from raw material and finished product. The samples were analyzed at NYSDEC's Microscopy Lab to determine the size of the particles to evaluate whether the dust could be attributed to Site operations. The particles found in the residential samples were reportedly attributable to facility operations and appear to be from crushed clear glass that feeds manufacturing operations. Reportedly, in addition to glass spheres and fractured glass, some slag product was identified.

On August 8, 2012, NYSDEC collected four one-hour ambient air samples using summa canisters. Three samples were collected in the odor plume in the residential neighborhood downwind from the Site, one of which was at the facility property line. A fourth sample was collected at the Attica High School which is reportedly located approximately 2000 feet from the Site. NYSDEC's air sampling results indicated very low levels of VOCs. Local citizens also collected a summa canister sample and the resulting analytical data indicated VOCs slightly elevated above the NYSDEC data.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

OSC Harrington arrived at the scene on September 12, 2012, and met with the facility representatives. Material/solid waste management at the facility is poor, with numerous large piles of partially processed materials accumulated on the facility, providing an on-going source of off-site fine particulates, odors, and smoke from the burning plastic pile.

The burning pile has been the source of ongoing off-site impacts up to 3 miles from the facility, dependent on pile burn and weather conditions. The odor of burning plastic is evident in the vicinity of the facility and is apparently particularly acute at night throughout the town, and is a major health concern for local residents. The predominant wind direction is from the facility directly to the surrounding residential neighborhood. The facility has been attempting to extinguish the fire in the pile by injecting CO₂ via injection wells and capping the pile with a thin layer of spray-on cement, however, the smoldering fire continues and impacts the surrounding town. Temperatures from 500°-700° are recorded in the center of the pile, and smoke emanates from the pile at various locations.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Reportedly, the PRPs have been attempting to extinguish the fire. The PRPs have reportedly been injecting nitrogen and/or carbon dioxide gas into the bottle pile and have covered some portion of the pile with a concrete type material (Shell). NYSDEC has expressed concern that the PRPs may have nearly exhausted their funds and may discontinue efforts to address the problem. The Facility is reportedly operating without a permit and does not have an assurance bond.

Direct real-time air monitoring on the evening of September 13, 2012 determined volatile organic compounds (VOCs) above 25 ppm in the immediate vicinity of the burning debris pile.

On September 13, 2012, ten summa canisters were deployed at approximately 12:00 PM to collect air samples over a 24-hour period for TO-15 analysis. Of the ten summa canisters, one was used to collect a background sample, one was deployed in the area of the burning debris pile and eight were deployed in residential and school areas. The TO-15 analysis will provide the target VOCs in the air samples. The canisters were collected and shipped for analysis on September 14, 2012 with a turnaround time of 48 hours. In addition, six 24-hr particulate samplers were deployed as follows: 1 background, 1 fence line, 4 residential and schools.

Odors from the burning debris pile are evident intermittently at most residential sampling stations.

EPA Region 2 Public Affairs Division issued a press release for distribution and coordinated inquiries for local media.

EPA demobilized from the Site following the completion of work on September 14, 2012. Additional actions by EPA will be determined following the evaluation of the sampling results.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA and EPA contractors demobilized from the Site following the completion of work on September 14, 2012. Further actions by EPA will be determined following the evaluation of the sampling results.

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

4. Personnel On Site

EPA demobilized following the completion of work on September 14, 2012.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83781.html> (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83781.html>)

6.2 Reporting Schedule

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.



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